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REASONS

Inducing  
Major Robert Huntingdon  
TO  
Lay down his Commission, humbly  
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HONOURABLE HOUSES  
OF  
PARLIAMENT.



LONDON,  
Printed in the Year. 1648. 2<sup>nd</sup> aug.

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Aving taken up Armes in defence of the Authority and Power of King and Parliament, under the Command of the Lord *Grey of Warke*, and the Earle of *Manchester*, during the severall employments with the Forces of the Easterne Association: And at the modelling of this Army, under the present Lord Generall having been appointed by the Honourable Houses of Parliament Major to the now Regiment of Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell*; in each of which employments having served constantly and faithfully, answerable to the trust reposed in me: And having lately quit the said employment, and laid downe my Commission, I hold my selfe tyed both in duty and conscience, to render the true reason thereof; which in the generall is briefly this: Because the Principles, Designes, and Actions of those Officers which have a great influence  
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upon the Army, are (as I conceive) very repugnant and destructive to the honour and safety of the Parliament and Kingdome, from whom they derive their Authority : The particulars whereof (being a breviate of my sad observations) will appeare in the following Narrative.

First, That upon the Orders of Parliament for disbanding this Army, Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell* and Commissary Generall *Ireton* were sent Commissioners to *Walden* to reduce the Army to their obedience, but more especially in order to the present supply of Forces for the Service of *Ireland*. But they, contrary to the trust reposed in them, very much hindered that Service, not onely by discountenancing those that were obedient and willing, but also by giving encouragement to the unwilling and disobedient, declaring that there had lately been much cruelty and injustice in the Parliaments proceedings against them (meaning the Army :) And Commiss. Generall *Ireton* in further pursuance thereof, frames those Papers and Writings then sent from the Army to the Parliament and Kingdome; saying also to the Agitators, That it was then lawfull and fit for us to deny disbanding till we had received equall and full satisfaction for our past Service. Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell* further adding, That we were in a double capacity, as Souldiers, and as Commoners; And having our pay as Souldiers, we have something else to stand upon as Commoners. And when upon the Rendezvouze at *Tripple-Heath*, the Commissioners of Parliament, according to their Orders, acquainted every Regiment with what the Parliament had already

ready done, and would further do in order to the desire of the Army; the Souldiery being before prepared, and notwithstanding any thing could be said or offered to them by the Commissioners, they still cryed out for *Justice, Justice.*

And for the effecting of their further purposes, advice was given by Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell* and Commissary Generall *Ireton*, to remove the Kings Person from *Holdenby*, or to secure him there by other Guards then those appointed by the Commissioners of Parliament, which was thought most fit to be carried on by the private Souldiery of the Army, and promoted by the Agitators of each Regiment, whose first businesse was to secure the Garrison of *Oxford*, with the Guns and Ammunition there; from thence to march to *Holdenby* in prosecution of the former advice, which was accordingly acted by Cornet *Joyce*, who when he had done the businesse, sent a Letter to the Generall, then at *Keinton*, acquainting his Excellency that the King was on his march towards *New-Market*; The Generall being troubled thereat, told Commissary Generall *Ireton* that he did not like it, demanding withall who gave those Orders, He replied, That he gave Orders onely for securing the King there, and not for taking him away from thence. Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell* coming then from *London*, said, That if this had not been done, the King would have been fetcht away by Order of Parliament, or else Colonell *Graves* by the advice of the Commissioners would have carried him to *London*, throwing themselves upon the favour of Parliament, for that service; The same day Cornet *Joyce* being told

told that the Generall was displeased with him for bringing the King from *Holdenby*, he answered, That Lievt. Gen. *Cromwell* gave him order at *London*, to do what he had done both there & at *Oxford*.

The person of the King being now in the power of the Army, the businesse of Lievt. Generall *Cromwell* was to Court his Majesty (both by members of the Army, and severall Gentlemen formerly in the Kings service) into a good opinion and beliefe of the proceedings of the Army, as also into a disaffection and dislike of the proceeding of Parliament, pretending to shew that his Majesties interest would farre better suit with the Principles of Independency then of Presbiterie, and when the King did alledge (as many times he did) that the power of Parliament was the power by which we fought, Lievt. Generall *Cromwell* would reply, That we were not onely Souldiers but Commoners, promising that the Army would be for the King in the settlement of his whole businesse, if the King and his party would sit still, and not declare no act against the Army but give them leave onely to manage the present busines in hand.

Then when the King was at *Newmarket*, the Parliament thought fit to send to his Majesty, humbly desiring that in order to his safety and their addresses for a speedy settlement, he would be pleased to come to *Richman*; contrary hereunto, resolutions was taken by the foresaid Officers of the Army, that if the King could not be diverted by perswasion (to which his Majesty was very opposite) that then they would stop him by force at *Royston*, where his Majesty

jesty was to lodge the first night, keeping accordingly continuall guards upon him, against any power that should be sent by order of Parliament, to take him from us, and to this purpose outguards were also kept to prevent his escape from us with the Commissioners, of whom we had speciall orders given to be carefull, for that they did dayly shew a dislike to the present proceedings of the Army against the Parliament, and that the King was most conversant and private in discourse with them; His Majesty saying, that if any man should hinder his going (now his Houses had desired him upon his late message of the 12 of May, 1647. it should be done by force, and by laying hold on his bridle, which if any were so bold to doe, he would endeavour to make it his last. But contrary to his Majesties expectation, the next morning when the King and the Officers of the Army were putting this to an issue, came the Votes of both Houses to the King of their compliance with that which the Army formerly desired, after which his Majesty did incline to hearken to the desires of the Army, and not before, whereupon at *Caversham* the King was continually solicited by Messengers from Lievtenant Generall *Cromwell*, and Commissary Generall *Ireton* proffering any thing his Majesty should desire, as Revenues, Chaplaines, Wife, Children, Servants of his owne, visitations of friends, accessse of Letters, and (by Commissary Generall *Ireton*) that his Negative voyce should not be medled withall, and that he had convinced those that reasoned against it at a Generall Councell of the Army: and all this they would doe:

that :



that his Majesty might the better see into all our actions, and know our Principles, which leade us to give him all these things out of conscience; For that we were not a people hating his Maiesties person, or Monarchicall Government, but that we liked it as the best, and that by this King, saying also, That they did hold it a very unseasonable thing for the Parliament to abridge him of them, oft promising that if his Majesty would sit still and not Act against them, they would in the first place restore him to all these, and upon the settlement of our own just rights and liberties, make him the most glorious Prince in Christendome; that to this purpose for a settlement they were making severall Proposals to be offered by the the Commissioners of Parliament, then sent downe to the Army which should be as bounds for our Party as to the Kings businesse, and that his Majesty should have liberty to get as much of those abated as he could, for that many things therein were purposed, onely to give satisfaction to others who were our friends, promising the King that at the same time the Commissioners of Parliament should see these Proposals, his Majesty should have a Copy of them also, pretending to carry a very equall hand betweene King and Parliament, in order to the settlement of the Kingdome by him, which besides their owne judgement and conscience, they did see a necessity of it as to the people. Commissary Generall Iretton farther saying, That what was offered in these Proposals, should be so just and reasonable, that if there were but six men in the Kingdome that would fight to make them good, he would be the seventh, against any power that should oppose them. The



The head Quarters being removed from *Reading* to *Bedford*, His Majesty to *Woborne* the propofals were given to me by Commiffary Gen. *Ireton* to present to the King which His Majesty having read, told me that He would never treat with *Army*, or *Parliament*, upon thofe Propofalls as Hee was then minded, but the next day His MAJESTY understanding that a force was put on His Houses of *Parliament* by a Tumult; sent for mee againe, and laid unto mee go along with Sr. *To. Beekley* to your Generall, and Lieutenant Generall and tell them, That to avoyde a new War I will now treat with them upon their propofalls, or any thing elfe, in order to appeare, onely let Me be faved in Honour, and Conscience, Sr. *John Berkley* falling fick by the way, I delivered this Meflage to the Lieutenant Generall, and to Commiffary Gen. *Ireton* who advifed mee, not to acquaint the Generall with it, till ten, or twelve Officers of the Army were met together at the Generalls quarters, and then they would bethinke themfelves of fome perfons to bee sent to the King about it, And accordingly Commiffary Gen. *Ireton*, Colonell *Rainsborough*, Colonell *Hammond*, and Col. *Ritch* attended the King at *Woburn* for three houres together, debating the whole bufineffe with the King upon the propofalls, upon which debate many of the moft materiall things the King difliked, were afterwards ftruck out, and many other things much abated by promifes: whereupon His MAJESTY was pretty well fatisfied: within a day or two after this, His MAJESTY removed to *Stoke*, and there calling for me told me He feared an engarement betweene the *City*, and *Army*, faying Hee had not time to write any thing under His Hand, but would fend it to the Generall

after mee, commanding mee to tell Commissary Gen. *Ireton* (with whom he had formerly treated upon the proposalls) that Hee would wholly throw Himselfe upon us, and trust us for a settlement of the Kingdome, as we had promised saying, If we proved honest men, we should without question make the Kingdome happy, and save much shedding of bloud; This Message from His MAJESTY I delivered to Commissary Gen. *Ireton* at *Colebrooke*, who seemed to receive it with joy, saying that we should be the veriest knaves that ever lived, if in every thing We made not good what ever we had promised, because the King by His not declaring against us had given us great advantage against our Adversaries.

After our marching through *London*, with the Army His MAJESTY being at *Hampton Court*, Lieutenant Generall *Cromwell*, and Commissary Generall *Ireton* sent the King word severall times that the reason why they made no more hast in His businesse, was because that party which did then sit in the house (while *Pelham* was Speaker) did much obstruct the businesse, so that they could not carry it on at present. The Lieutenant Generall often saying really, They should be pulled out by the Eares, and to that purpose caused a Regiment of Horse to *Randezouz* at *Hide-Parke* to have put that in execution (as hee himselfe expressed) had it not beene carried by Vote in the House that day as hee desired: The day before the *Parliament* Voted once more the sending of the Propositions of both Kingdoms to the King by the Commissioners of each Kingdome at *Hampton-Court*: Commissary Generall *Ireton* bad me tell the King that such a thing was to bee done to morrow in the House,  
but

But His MAJESTY need not to be troubled at it, for that they intended it to no other end but to make good some promises of the *Parliament*, which the Nation of *Scotland* expected performance of, And that it was not expected, or desired His MAJESTY should either signe them, or treat upon them, for which there should be no advantage taken against the King, upon the delivery of which Message His MAJESTY Replied. Hee knew not what answer to give to please all without a Treaty. The next day after, this Vote passed; The Lieutenant Generall asking me thereupon if the King did not vnderstand at these Votes, I told Him no: For that Commissary Gen. *Jreton* had sent such a Message by mee the day before the Vote passed to signifie the reason of it. The Lieutenant Generall replied that, really it was the truth, and that vvee (speaking of the *Parliament*) intended nothing else by it, but to satisfy the *Scot*, which otherwise might be troublesome; And the Lieutenant Generall and Commissary Generall enquiring after His MAJESTIES Answer to the propositions, and what it would be, it was shewed them both privately in a Gardenhouse at *Putney*, and in some part amended to their own minds, but before this, the King doubting what answer to give, sent mee to Lieutenant Gen. *Cromwell* as unsatisfied vvith the proceedings of the *Army*, fearing they intended not to make good vvhat they promised and the rather because His MAJESTY understood, that Lieutenant Gen. *Cromwell* and Commissary Gen. *Jreton* agreed with the rest of the House in some late Votes that opposed the proposalls of the *Army*; They severally Replied that they would not have His MAJESTY mistrust them for that since the House would goe so

High, they onely concurred with them that their unreasonableſſe might the better appeare to the Kingdome; And the Lieutenant Generall bad mee further assure the King, that if the *Army* remained an *Army* HIS MAJESTY ſhould truſt the propoſalls vvith what vvvas promiſed to be the vvorſt of His conditions, vvwhich ſhould be made for Him, and then ſtriking His Hand on his breſt in His chamber at *Putney*, bad mee tell the King He might reſt confident and assured of it. And many times the ſame Meſſage hath beene ſent to the King from them both; but vvith this addition from Commiſſary Gen. *Irton*, that they vvould purge, and purge, and never leave purging the Houſes till they had made them of ſuch a temper as ſhould do His MAJESTIES buſineſſe, and rather then they vvould fall ſhort of vvhat vvvas promiſed, He vvould joyne vvith *French*, *Spaniard*, *Cavalier*, or any that vvould joyne vvith him to force them to it; upon the delivery of vvwhich Meſſage the King made anſvver, that if they doe, they vvould do more then He durſt doe. After this the delay of the ſettlement of the Kingdome vvvas excuſed upon the commotions of Col. *Martin*, and Col. *Rainsborough* vvith their adherents, the Lieutenant Generall ſaying, that ſpeedy courſe muſt be taken for outing of them in the Houſe and *Army*, becauſe they vvvere novv putting the *Army* into a mutiny by having hands in publiſhing ſeverall Printed papers calling themſelves the Agents of five Regiments, and the agreement of the people, although ſome men had encouragement from Lieut. Gen. *Cromwell* for the proſecution of thoſe Papers: And he being further preſt to ſhev himſelfe in it, he deſired to be excuſed at the preſent for that he might ſhev himſelfe

selfe hereafter for their better advantage; Though in the company of those men which were of different Judgements, hee would often say that these people were a giddy headed party, and that there was no trust nor truth in them; And to that purpose wrote a letter to Colonell *Whaley*, that day the King went from *Hampton Court*, intimating doubtfully that his Majesties Person was in danger by them, And that he should keep out-gard to prevent them, which letter was presently shewed to the King by Colonell *Whaley*.

That about six dayes after when it was fully known by the *Parliament* and Army, that the King was in the Ile of *Wight*, Commissary Generall *Ireton* standing by the fireside in his Quarters at *Kingslon*, and some speaking of an Agreement likely to be made between the King and *Parliament*, now the Person of the King was out of the Army; Commissary Generall *Ireton* replied with a discontented countenance, that hee hoped it would be such a Peace, as wee might with a good Conscience fight against them both.

Thus they who at the first taking the King from *Holdenby* into the power of the Army, cryed downe the *Presbyterian* Governement, the proceedings of this present *Parliament*, and their perpetuity, and instead thereof held forth an earnest Inclination to a moderated *Episcopacy*, with a new Election of Members, to sit in *Parliament* for the speedy settlement of the Kingdome; And afterwards when the eleven Members had left the House, and the marching through *London*, with the Army, the seven Lords Impeached, the foure Aldermen of *London* committed to the Tower, and other Citizens committed also, then a-

gaine they cryed up the *Presbyterian* Government, the perpetuity of this present *Parliament* ; Lievetenant Generall *Crumwell* further pleasing himsele with the great summes of money , which were in Arreares from each County to the Army , and the tax of 60000. pounds *per moneth* for our maintenance, now saith hee we may bee for ought I know , an Army as long as wee live ; And since the sending forth the Orders of *Parliament* for the calling of their Members together ; Lievetenant Generall *Crumwell* perceiving the Houses will not answer his expectation, hee is now againe uttering words perswading the hearers to a prejudice against the proceedings of *Parliament*, again crying downe *Presbyterian* Government , setting up a single Interest, which he calls an honest Interest, and that wee have done ill in forsaking of it. To this purpose it was lately thought fit to put the Army upon the choosing new Agitators, and to draw forth of the houses of *Parliament*, sixty or seventy of the Members thereof, much agreeing with his words hee spake formerly in his Chamber at *Kingston*, saying what a sway *Stapleton*, and *Hollis* had heretofore in the Kingdome, and hee knew nothing to the contrary, but that hee was as well able to governe the Kingdome as either of them : So that in all his discourse : Nothing more appeareth then his seeking after the Government of King, *Parliament*, City and Kingdome : For the effecting whereof hee thought it necessary, and delivered it as his Judgement : That a considerable party of the chief Citizens of *London* , and some of every County bee clapt up in Castles and Garrisons for the more quiet and submissive carriage of every place to which they belong : further saying, that from the rayling of the  
late



late tumult in *London* there should be an occasion taken to hang the Recorder, and Aldermen of *London* then in the Tower, that the City might see the more they did stirre in opposition the more they should suffer, adding that the City must first be made an example, and since that Lievetenant Generall *Crumwell* was sent downe from the *Parliament* for the reducing of the Army to their Obedience, hee hath most frequently in publike and private delivered these ensuing heads, as his Principles, from whence all the foregoing particulars have ensued, beng fully confirmed (as I humbly conceive) by his practise in the transaction of his last yeares businesse.

1. That every single man is Judge of just and right, as to the good and ill of a Kingdome.

2. That the interest of honest men is the interest of the Kingdome, and that those onely are deemed honest men by him that are conformable to his Judgement and practise, may appeare in many particulars; to instance but one in the choice of Colonell *Rainsbrough* to be Vice-Admirall: Lievetenant Generall *Crumwell* being asked, how he could trust a man whose interest was so directly opposite to what hee had professed, and one whom he had lately aimed to remove from all places of trust? He answered, that hee had now received particular assurance from Col: *Rainsbrough*, as great as could be given by man, that hee would be conformable to the judgement and direction of himselfe, and Commissary Generall *Iretcn*, for the managing of the whole businesse at Sea.

3. That it is lawfull to passe through any formes of Government for the accomplishing his ends, and therefore either to purge the houses, and support the remaining



remaining Party by force everlastingly, or to put a period to them by force, is very lawfull and suitable to the interest of honest men.

4. That it is lawfull to play the knave with a knave. These Gentlemen aforesaid in the Army thus principled, and (as by many other Circumstances might appeare, acting accordingly give too much cause to believe, that the successe which may be obtained by the Army (except timely prevented by the wisdom of *Parliament*) will be made use off, to the destroying of all that power for which we first engaged; And having for above these twelve moneths past (sadly, and with much reluctancy) observed these severall passages aforesaid, yet with some hopes, that at length there might be a returning to the obedience of *Parliament*: And contrary hereunto, knowing that resolutions were taken up, that in case the power of *Parliament* cannot be gained to countenance their designs, then to proceed without it: I therefore chose to quit my selfe of my Command wherein I have served the *Parliament*, for these few yeares last past, and put my selfe upon the greatest hazards by discovering these truths, rather then by hopes of gaine with a troubled minde continue an Abettor, or Assistant of such as give affronts to the *Parliament* and Kingdome, by abusing their power and Authority to carrie on their particular designs, against whom in the midst of danger I shall ever avow the truth of this Narrative, and my selfe to bee a constant, faithfull and obedient servant to the *Parliament* of England.

Robert Huntington.

Aug. 2. 1648.

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